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STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:	<b>BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY</b> <b>Wednesday, November 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.</b>
PLACE:	861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware <b>Conference Room B</b> , second floor of the Cannon Building
MINUTES APPROVED:	January 16, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Judith Scarborough, Professional Member, Secretary  
James Cohee, Professional Member  
Robert Mosch, Professional Member  
Jeffrey Premo, Professional Member  
Gary Pippin, Public Member  
Sharron Cirillo, Professional Member

**ABSENT**

Michael Wollaston, Professional Member, President  
Robert Paretta, Educational Member  
Denise Stokes, Public Member

**DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Daniel Stevenson, Deputy Attorney General  
Shelly Ide, Administrative Specialist II

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dana Rubenstein, Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants  
Rita Ghandi, CPA Applicant  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Scarborough called the meeting to order at 9:39am.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Pippin, seconded by Mr. Mosch, to approve the amended minutes of the October 17, 2012, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Re-Review of Applications**

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Premo, to approve the Combined Application for CPA Certificate and Permit to Practice of Masakazu Kato. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Premo, to table the Combined Application for CPA Certificate and Permit to Practice of Asam Nadeem, and requested an updated Affidavit of Supervised Work Experience. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Premo, to propose to deny the Combined Application for CPA Certificate and Permit to Practice of Anuj Garg, as he doesn't have the required direct supervision. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Premo, to table the Combined Application for CPA Certificate and Permit to Practice of Rajat Bhansali, and requested an updated Affidavit of Supervised Work Experience as the dates provided on the affidavits & the application don't match. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Continuing Education Audit Reviews**

A motion was made by Mr. Cohee, seconded by Mr. Mosch, to refer the continuing education submission from Rachel Tan back to the hearing officers, as the submitted exceptions were not sufficient. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Cohee, seconded by Mr. Mosch, to approve the continuing education submission from Paul Fayad. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Updates on Annulments**

A motion was made by Ms. Scarborough, seconded by Mr. Mosch to table the decision of annulling Mr. Shah's permit. The Board requested an updated & completed Affidavit of Supervised Work Experience, as the latest version did not contain any job description. The motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Review of Combined CPA Certificate and Permit Applications**

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to approve the applications of Justin Shafer, Joseph Loner, Todd VanDoren, & Tina Graff. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to approve the application of Phaedra Xanthos, contingent upon receipt of the original Affidavit of Supervised Work Experience. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of CPA Permit Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Premo, seconded by Ms. Cirillo, to propose to deny the application of Anthony Sacco. Mr. Sacco claims to be the CFO of a hedge fund & attesting his own work experience/job description, however, only a CPA can attest on himself. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to approve the application of Ali Almohammedali. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of PA Permit Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Cohee, to approve the application of Cassius Dunsford. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Firm Permit Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Premo, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to propose to deny the application of Your Virtual CFO, LLC, as the principal is Anthony Sacco & his CPA Permit application was also just proposed to deny. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Premo, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to approve Mainardi & Company, CPA's, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of CPA Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Pippin, seconded by Mr. Cohee, to approve the application of Neville Thakker. The motion carried unanimously.

Ratification of CPA Certificate Applications

A motion was made by Mr. Cohee, seconded by Ms. Cirillo, to ratify the approval of the CPA Certificate of Svetlana Strykova & Hiroshi Hibino. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing Officer Recommendation

A motion was made by Ms. Cirillo, seconded by Mr. Cohee, to add a letter of reprimand & otherwise accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of Fleurette Sydney. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Scarborough, seconded by Mr. Cohee, to add a letter of reprimand & to otherwise accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of Ryoko Mukai. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Scarborough, seconded by Mr. Cohee, to add a letter of reprimand & to otherwise accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of Rafik Hanna. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Premo, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to decrease the fine from \$250 to \$100 and to otherwise accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of Joyce Kam. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Scarborough, seconded by Mr. Mosch, & to otherwise accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of Teresa Zaki. The motion carried unanimously.

The review of recommendations for Junaid Mirza & Jean Chang was stricken from the agenda as the 20 days response time has not passed yet.

#### Complaint Status

04-03-11	Open
04-04-11	Open
04-05-11	Open
04-01-12	Assigned to Hearing Officer
04-02-12	Open
04-03-12	Open
04-04-12	Open
04-05-12	Open
04-08-12	Open
04-09-12	Open
04-10-12	Open
04-11-12	Open
04-12-12	Open

#### Delaware Specific Ethics Course

Mr. Mosch volunteered to review the Delaware Specific Ethics Course submitted from American CPE. The discussion will occur at the January meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

##### § 122. Status of existing certificates preserved

Ms. Ide questioned the members of the Board on the requirements of one to obtain the CPA Certificate only. Ms. Scarborough explained that as long as one applied to sit for the CPA exam before January 1, 2006, they are eligible to obtain the Certificate. The current requirements of a minimum of a Bachelor's degree & 24 Semester hours in Accounting do not apply.

##### Unlicensed practice – J. Premo

Mr. Premo spoke to the other members about a concern of non-licensed persons completing accounting work, even though they aren't holding themselves out to be CPAs. The discussion will continue in January as the Board begins the process of reviewing the rules & regulations.

##### Nancy Wolf's Compliance from 2010

Ms. Ide informed the Board that disciplinary fines charged to Ms. Wolf have remained unpaid. Per her Order in 2010, Ms Wolf was fined \$20,000, \$5000 each for four offenses, with at least \$5000 to be paid within 30 days of the date of mailing of this

Decision & Order, and the balance of \$15,000 to be paid no later than six months after the date of mailing of this Decision & Order. Mr. Stevenson will inquire the next step per the Attorney General's Office & advise at the January meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Inquiry on writing articles (Ticket # 347953)**

Ms. Ide received an inquiry from a licensee, asking if writing blogs/articles for a firm's website counted for continuing education. Per the Board, these do not count.

#### **NASBA'S Regional Directors Focus Questions**

Ms. Scarborough advised that she would assist Ms. Ide in completing these questions, outside of the Board meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Roger Akin, Chief Hearing Officer for the Division of Professional Regulation, spoke to the board regarding the administrative hearing officer's process. He explained that although deficient continuing education files had been forwarded to the hearing officers, it was still required to have a member of the board review the credits to deem them as deficient/compliant. Although this process does create back & forth of the files, it is required for the adequate review of continuing education materials. Ms. Ide will work on the audit review sheet to ease the review process.

Ms. Rita Gandhi spoke to the board about her application. She stressed that she was unaware of the change in the regulations & asked for the Board to review her application even though she does not meet the current requirements. The board agreed to review the application at the next board meeting.

Ms. Ide questioned the board members on distance learning. There is an applicant that, through her an FACS evaluation sent to DPR, has education equivalent to an Associates Degree. However, through her FACS evaluation sent to East Carolina University, has education equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree. This discrepancy came about as FACS was following the guidelines on NASBA's website whereas it stated that "*Online courses are NOT acceptable from International schools.*" The Board advised Ms. Ide that these credits would be acceptable, as long as the online course was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools or by another comparable regional accrediting association, per Rules & Regulations 4.1.4.1.

Ms. Ide informed the Board that she has accepted another position within DPR & the agency is beginning the process of hiring a replacement liaison.

Ms. Scarborough requested the Rules & Regulations review/discussion to be added to January's agenda.


**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next meeting will be held January 16, 2012 at 9:00 am in Conference Room B, second floor of the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Mosch, seconded by Mr. Pippin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ide". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "S" and a cursive "Ide".

Shelly Ide  
Administrative Specialist II